

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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Claims 1-12 (withdrawn)

13. (presently amended) A stereoscopic microscope comprising:

a common close-up optical system that faces an object, said close-up optical system having ~~a single~~ one and only one optical axis;

a pair of imaging optical systems that take object light rays passing through the different regions of said close-up optical system, respectively, to form a pair of images, the optical axes of said imaging optical systems being parallel to the optical axis of said close-up optical system;

an image taking device that captures said images formed on an image taking surface thereof,

wherein said close-up optical system satisfies the following condition (1);

(1)  $f_A > 500$

where  $f_A$  is a focal length (unit: mm) of the close-up optical system.

14. (original) The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 13, wherein said imaging optical system comprises:

a pair of zoom optical systems that take object light rays passing through the different regions of said close-up optical system, respectively, to form a pair of primary images, the

optical axes of said zoom optical systems being parallel to the optical axis of said close-up optical system;

a pair of field stops that are arranged at the positions of said primary images;

B1 a pair of relay optical systems that relay said primary images to form a pair of secondary images; and

an inter-axis distance reducing element that brings the object light rays from said relay optical systems close to each other.

Claim 15 (withdrawn)

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